

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated 10 January 2008, and follows the in-person interview between Examiners Melissa K. Ryckman, Julian W. Woo, and Applicants' representative L. Grant Foster on 15 July 2008. Claims 1, 3-15, 27, 31, and 39 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-39 remain pending in the application.

Substance of Interview

On 15 July 2008, Applicants' representative L. Grant Foster and Examiners Melissa K. Ryckman and Julian W. Woo engaged in an in-person interview at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Independent claims 1, 15, 27, 31, and 39 were discussed in detail, along with the disclosure of the instant application. In addition, prior art was discussed, including U.S. Patent No. 5,662,681 to Nash, as noted in the Interview Summary.

Various distinctions between the claims pending in the application and the prior art were discussed. In addition, it was agreed that various amendments, specifically those set forth in the above-amended claims, would distinguish the claimed invention over the art of record.

Claim Rejections

All the claims pending in the application have previously been rejected based upon the above-noted prior art patent. All independent claims have been amended in accordance with the discussions that took place during the in-person interview. Applicants respectfully submit,

therefore, that the claim rejections as set forth in the Office Action dated 10 January 2008 have now been overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that all matters have now been resolved in connection with the present application. If the Examiner believes that there remain any unresolved matters, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney to expedite the handling of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 14 AUGUST 2008

By 
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